

Good evening! It is my pleasure to be here tonight for the start of the first Family Caregiver Expo. I want to congratulate the **National Association of Chain Drug Stores** and **W-Jay-L-A-TV** for organizing this event and for recognizing the changing needs of patients and consumers. It is important for families to know that services are now available to assist them. I hope this becomes an annual event and one that is replicated elsewhere in the United States.

**How many of you have a loved one who you're caring for, either directly or indirectly?**

Caregiving ultimately will affect just about all of us – we will either require assistance as we age or will provide assistance to a loved one.

When he proclaimed National Family Caregivers Month, the **President** said. “By bringing loving support to their loved ones, our Nation's family caregivers make our country a better place. We honor their generosity and dedication, and we recognize the vital role of family in the lives of our citizens.”

I am so pleased that we are supporting families who have made that commitment through the **National Family Caregiver Program**. Although it is only five years old, we have already invested over \$700 million and are making a tremendous difference in the lives of 12 million people across America by providing:

- **Information and Assistance** in securing appropriate help;
- **Counseling, support groups and caregiver training** to help families make decisions and solve problems;
- **Respite care** so that families can have some temporary relief from their responsibilities, and
- **Supplemental and other services.**

We want to make sure that caregivers are aware that these services are available in their communities. That is why community awareness efforts such as this Expo are so important.

I can see that this event will be a total success. I thank you all for being here today, and I thank the sponsors and organizers for making it happen.